

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/808,492
Reply to Office Action dated July 27, 2005

PATENT
450100-03064

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 13, which are independent, are hereby amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed, specifically on page 20, line 17 - page 21, line 8. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) REJECTIONS

Claims 1 and 3-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated over U.S. Patent No. 6,760,915 to deCarmo, Linden A. (hereinafter, merely "deCarmo").

Claim 1, now recites, *inter alia*:

"An information playback apparatus...

wherein said user is able to increase a value of said identification information, input by a user, used for identification of a recording medium and a value of said identification information recorded on a recording medium loaded in said information playback apparatus,

wherein the increased values of the identification information are written over the original values of the identification information in

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/808,492
Reply to Office Action dated July 27, 2005

PATENT
450100-03064

the storage control step, and

wherein, if a maximum of identification information is achieved, new identification information is written over an oldest identification information or the new identification information is written over a user-selected replaceable identification information." (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, deCarmo relates to a method and system for preventing viewing of objectionable content found with one or more digital multimedia input streams. A universal rating manager analyzes an incoming digital data signal to determine if the content rating of the signal is acceptable for decoding. The ratings manager analyzes multiple rating levels that have been implemented by the user. If they are enabled, the ratings manager finds a compatible rating level. If they are not enabled, access is not granted for decoding of the video stream and the ratings manager returns the signal identifying reasons for denial of access.

Applicants submit that deCarmo fails to teach or suggest this feature of claim 1. Specifically, Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion that the increased values of the identification information are written over the original values of the identification information in the storage control step, and, if a maximum of identification information is achieved, new identification information is written over an oldest identification information or the new identification information is written over a user-selected replaceable identification information, as recited in claim 1.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 4, 5 and 6 are also believed to be patentable.

Claims 8-11 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated over U.S. Patent No. 6,385,388 to Lewis et al. (hereinafter, merely "Lewis").

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/808,492
Reply to Office Action dated July 27, 2005

PATENT
450100-03064

Claim 8, now recites, *inter alia*:

"A method for controlling playback...

wherein said user is able to increase a value of said permission condition associated with said playback device and a value of said recording medium identification for each of said one or more recording media,

wherein the increased value of said permission condition is written over the original value of the permission condition in storage, and

wherein, if a maximum of the recording medium identification information is achieved, new recording medium identification information is written over an oldest recording medium identification information or the new recording medium identification information is written over a user-selected replaceable recording medium identification information."
(emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Lewis relates to a user interface for a digital video apparatus capable of restricting playback of stored video and audio information in response to program related information such as parental control ratings included with the video and audio information. A program chain provides particular playback sequences where multiple parental blocks are created to generate sequences corresponding to different parental control ratings. Different versions of video are provided corresponding to different parental control ratings in order to seamlessly branch between various scenes to provide multiple playback sequences.

Applicants submit that Lewis fails to teach or suggest this feature of claim 8. Specifically, Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion of an increased value of the permission condition to be written over the original value of the permission condition in the storage, and, if a maximum of the recording medium identification information is achieved, new recording medium identification information is written over an oldest recording medium identification information or the new recording medium identification information is written over

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/808,492
Reply to Office Action dated July 27, 2005

PATENT
450100-03064

a user-selected replaceable recording medium identification information, as recited in claim 8.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that independent claim 8 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 8, independent claim 13 is also believed to be patentable.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 13 are patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the above-identified reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

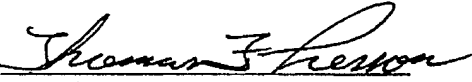
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/808,492
Reply to Office Action dated July 27, 2005

PATENT
450100-03064

Please charge any fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our
Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 
Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800